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Right of peoples to self-determination

Letter dated 1 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter from Ali Akbar Salehi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to you concerning the despicable film entitled "Innocence of Muslims" (see annex).

I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 68.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 1 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you, with deep sorrow and profound grief, to express my extreme concern and dismay over the continuing vicious campaign against Islam perpetuated by some circles, groups and figures in the west. The most recent sacrilegious act against Islam, that is, the production and dissemination of a very offensive movie about the Prophet of Islam, which has offended hundreds of millions of Muslims all around the globe and ignited religious hatred among the followers of different religions, should serve as an alarm to us all and should unite us against such hate crimes.

This and similar offensive acts against Islam and Islamic sanctities, particularly the Holy Quran and the Prophet of Islam, are nothing short of hate crimes which have proved to ignite or contribute to violence and therefore need to be taken as seriously as the grave nature of such crimes requires.

Impunity sustains crime; the very unfortunate fact that this senseless insulting act has been supported by a person who has a long record of Islamophobia and incitement to religious and racial violence, indicates that incitement to hatred and violence in certain parts of the world seems to be encouraged by State acquiescence and failure to take any appropriate action against the perpetrators. The producers of the hate-mongering movie would have thought twice before daring to produce and disseminate the movie, had the relevant authorities of the United States Government taken appropriate measures against similar acts, including the shameless act of burning the Holy Quran by a self-proclaimed priest in Florida, United States of America, in 2011. States should avoid shunning their responsibility to suppress such acts of hate crime by simplistically justifying the act under the highly valued banner of freedom of expression. The perpetrators and accomplices of such crimes must be brought to justice and made accountable for their crimes.

As the Secretary-General of the United Nations, whose very purpose is to preserve peace and friendship among nations, you have an important responsibility to enlighten international public opinion about the negative consequences of such hate-mongering moves against the cause of religious tolerance and peaceful relations between different religions and various nations. Indeed, we all should bear such responsibility by deploring any vicious campaign against religions, condemning such acts as manifestations of hate crime and insisting that the perpetrators of such acts must be held accountable for their irresponsible acts.

(*Signed*) Ali Akbar **Salehi**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran